

We are at the beginning of a long, intense and damaging fire season.

More than 3 million acres have already burned. That is 1 million acres more than were burned at this time during the previous record year.



While fire is a natural part of a forest ecosystem, these fires are beyond natural.



Fires Are Burning Faster Than Ever Before

- **Arizona Rodeo Fire: 800 acres to 46,000 acres in one day - and eventually grew to more than 450,000**
- **Colorado Hayman Fire: five times bigger than the previous largest fire in Colorado history**



I flew over the Hayman fire, and talked to firefighters at the base camp. I saw its roaring flames, smelled its smoke, watched the fire bearing down on homes in its path.

That is as close to hell as I ever want to get.

Energy from a Large Fire Can Equal an Atomic Bomb



These unnatural fires cause serious damage.
Energy from just one of these large fires can equal
an atomic bomb.

Heat So Hot It Can Sterilize Soil



Their heat can sterilize soil,
preventing growth for years
to come.

Large Fires Cause Major Air and Particulate Pollution



The smoke that billows from these large fires raises air quality concerns. Let me give you one example. In 1999, the Big Bar fire in Northern California burned 125,000 acres. The smoke from that fire alone exceeded federal and state clean air standards for 22 days. Schools were closed for several days in Klamath and Trinity Counties. Smoke advisories were issued for people to remain indoors.

Thousands of Communities Near Federal Land Are At Risk from Fire



Already this year, 200 communities have been affected by wildland fires either through evacuation or, tragically, destruction of homes or businesses.